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In re Application of
Dennis et al.
Application No. 10/616,169
Filed: July 9, 2003
Attorney Docket NO. 11509/12

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: DECISION HOLDING PTA REQUEST
:IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER ISSUE
:DATE
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This decision is in response to applicants' <u>REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.705(b)</u> [1] timely filed on January 10, 2007 requesting that the Office adjust the PTA at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance to at least 468 days.

The instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, a decision is being **held in abeyance** until after the actual patent date. Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.703(b). It is noted that at the time of this decision, the patent has issued.

Applicants are given **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the issue date or **ONE** month from the date of this decision whichever is later to file a written request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. A copy of this decision should accompany the request. Applicants may seek such consideration without payment of an additional fee. However, as to all other bases for seeking reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent, all requirements of § 1.705(d) must be met. Requests for reconsideration on other bases must be timely filed and must include payment of the required fee.
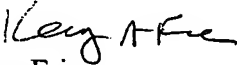
Applicants are reminded that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of delay for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004).

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[1]Issue fee paid on Jan. 10, 2007

Rather than file the request for reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). The USPTO notes that it does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent and accordingly, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent.

The Office has assessed the $200.00 fee required of this request. No additional fees are required in considering this matter.

Any questions should be directed to Kery A. Fries, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571-272-7757.

Kery Fries
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Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of Deputy Commissioner
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